News from SALEM COUNTY Office of Public Information Evern D. Ford

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COUNTY OF SALEM WELCOMED DISABILITY MENTORING DAY

Salem, NJ — The Salem County Board of Chosen Freeholders opened county government for the annual job shadowing day by participants of the ARC of Salem County job readiness program.

Freeholder Director Julie Acton welcomed fifteen job seekers to the Old Courthouse asking them to carefully observe their county employee mentors by asking questions about what job skills were needed. Employees represented Administration, Health and Human Services, Office on Aging, Engineering, Sheriff's Office and Prosecutor's Office.

Director Acton said "This is a perfect way to make the connection between the programs of County government and the decisions that need to be made by elected officials on how best to serve the public and overseeing taxpayer dollars. We are very grateful to ARC for partnering with us."

The 15 visiting mentees answered sample questions during a mock interview and toured offices such as the County Clerk and Board of Elections giving a glimpse of government and public service. The daytime activity ended with a well received Sheriff's Office K9 program.

Freeholder Bruce Bobbitt, who chairs the Health and Human Services Committee, was previously quoted, "What a wonderful event. Participants will have the opportunity to shadow a wide range of jobs. They will be mentoring in the Prosecutor's Office, County Administrator, Public Health Nurses, Environmental Regulation, Office of Aging and others."

That evening, since the Mentoring Day fell on a freeholder meeting night, the County matched participants to elected officials to serve as honorary Freeholders. Six participants took an oath as "Honorary Freeholders" to assist their respective Freeholder in supporting a ceremonial proclamation of the job shadowing day and voting on the meeting agenda's resolutions. All participants were presented with a certificate of participation and keepsake copy of the honorary oath.

The Disability Mentoring Day began in 1999 as part of a national effort to increase awareness on employment capabilities of the disabled. Salem County hosts its mentoring day as part of October's designation as Disability Awareness Month.





Honorary Freeholder oath of office to all participants.



Deputy Director Dale Cross explaining the oath of office



Honorary Freeholder John Meschi and Freeholder Director Julie Acton